Indo-US Joint Working Group on Counter Terrorism

*106. SHRIMATI GURCHARAN KAUR:
SHRI SATISH PRADHAN:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) The subjects discussed by the Indo-US Joint Working Group on Counter Terrorism during its recent meeting in New Delhi;

(b) the decisions taken thereat; and

(c) the steps Government propose to take to install high-tech sensors to detect cross border human movements?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH): (a) At the fourth meeting of the India-U.S. Joint Working Group on Counter-terrorism in New Delhi on 20-21 January 2002, the two delegations discussed the current terrorism situation and ways to further strengthen institutional, law enforcement, financial, military, intelligence cooperation between the two countries in combating terrorism.

(b) The two sides agreed to continue exchanging assessment on the international terrorism situation; further strengthen intelligence and investigation cooperation; expand training in preventive, protective and consequence management capabilities in both conventional and WMD terrorism; share experience on the efforts being made by the two countries to strengthen internal/homeland security; work together for the full implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 1373 of September 2001 on terrorism; strengthen military—military cooperation on counter-terrorism; cooperate on issues such as blocking terrorism financing, forensic capabilities, aviation security and technological aspects of effective border management.

(c) Government has initiated steps to examine the U.S. offer of technology, equipment and systems used in border surveillance to assess their effectiveness and suitability for Indian conditions.

Award of excellence relating to labour

*107. SHRI B. J. PANDA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the criteria of selection for the "Shram Ratna, Shram Bhushan and Shram Vir" awards of excellence relating to labour;

(b) the content of such awards;

(c) when these awards were established and since then how many have been awarded these awards, category-wise;

(d) whether it is a fact that BHEL employees have got it for the last sixteen consecutive years; and

(e) the composition of the Committee for selection of such awards?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) to (e) The Prime Minister's Shram Awards were established in the year 1985.

These awards are presented to the workmen (as defined in the Industrial Dispute Act, 1947) employed in the Departmental Undertakings of the Central and State Governments and Central and State Public Sector Undertakings and engaged in manufacturing and productive processes and whose performance is assessable. Workmen solely engaged in routine service duties are not eligible.

These awards are given to workmen who have a distinguished record of performance, devotion to duty of a high order, specific contribution in the field of productivity, proven innovative abilities, presence of mind and exceptional courage. The awards may be given to those workmen also who have made the supreme sacrifice of laying down their lives in the conscientious discharge of their duties. Adequate representation is given to women handicapped workers. The awards in the order of precedence are as under:—

SHRAM RATNA being the highest award goes to a worker of really outstanding calibre. There is only one award in this category and carries a cash prize of Rs. 2,00,000/-.

SHRAM BHUSHAN is awarded to workers who have made exceptional contribution in productivity/production and have also shown innovative abilities of high order. This category of awards are 2 in number and carries a cash prize each of Rs. 1,00,000/-.

SHRAM VIR is awarded to workers who have a continuous record of dedicated service and high order of productivity. This category of awards are 6 in number and carries a cash prize each of Rs. 60,000/-.

SHRAM SHRI/SHRAM DEVI is awarded to workers who have shown exceptional zeal and enthusiasm for work and have had significant contribution

towards productivity. This category of awards are 8 in number and carries a cash prize each of Rs. 40,000/-.

Besides the cash prize, awardees also receive a "SANAD"

The Screening Committee consists of Secretary (Labour) as Chairman and an officer not below the level of Joint Secretary each from Prime Minister's Office, Cabinet Secretariat Ministry of Home Affairs and Department of Public Enterprises.

It is not true that the BHEL employees have been awarded the Prime Minister's Shram Awards in the last sixteen consecutive years. The BHEL employees have not received the award for the year 2001. However, BHEL employees working in their different units in the country have been awarded from the year 1985 to 2000 consecutively.

Since the inception of these Awards in 1985, 388 employees have received these awards either individually or jointly. The category wise details of the awards given are as under:

Category of Award	Shram Ratna	Shram Bhushan	Shram Vir	Shram Shri/ Shram Devi	Total
Number of employees received Awards	10	89	153	136	388

Increase in unemployment

*108. SHRI S. AGNIRAJ:
SHRI SURESH KALMADI:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that unemployment is gradually increasing in the country;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor;

(c) what steps are being taken to wipe out unemployment; and

(d) how many persons were registered with various employment exchanges in the years 1999-2000, 2000-2001 and so far in 2002 for employment?